

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05565 201505Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /046 W  
-----040598 201938Z /47

R 201439Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5691  
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5565

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP ET US  
SUBJECT: FORMER MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PROPOSED AS  
AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

REF: ADDIS ABABA 5529

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM MOFA DATED SEPT 19  
INFORMING EMBASSY THAT ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS  
BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST AGREEMENT OF USG FOR H.E. ATO  
AYALEW MANDEFRO AS AMBASSADOR A E AND P. MOFA NOTE FURTHER  
STATES EPMG WOULD APPRECIATE VERY MUCH IF EMBASSY ADDIS  
COULD EXPEDITE MATTER WITH VIEW TOWARD OBTAINING AGREEMENT AS  
SOON AS POSSIBLE. MOFA NOTE ENCLOSED CURRICULUM VITAE OF  
H.E. ATO AYALEW.

2. NOTE CONFIRMS RUMORS (REFTEL) THAT AYALEW WOULD BE  
SENT TO US. FROM 1974-77 AYALEW WAS MINISTER OF NATIONAL  
DEFENSE, FROM 1970-74 HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO SOMALIA, AND HE  
HAS HAD EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH UN, UNESCO,  
OAU, AND DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE. HE WAS ALSO FORMER MOFA  
ASST MINISTER IN CHARGE OF AMERICAN AND PRESS DEPTS (1964),  
AND HOLDS B.A. FROM TUFTS UNIV. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 05565 201505Z

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (1958). HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH,  
FRENCH AND ITALIAN AS WELL AS AMHARIC.

3. COMMENT: IF, AFTER RECEIVING REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT  
FROM ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY, DEPT REQUIRES DETAILED BIO DATA  
WE HAVE RECEIVED, PLEASE SO INFORM US. IN OUR JUDGMENT,  
CHOICE OF AYALEW AS AMBASSADOR IS EXCELLENT, INDEED,

ETHIOPIANS PROBABLY COULD NOT HAVE MADE BETTER SELECTION. AYALEW, WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO US BOTH IN HIS CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND HIS EARLIER CAPACITY AS ASSISTANT MINISTER IN CHARGE OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN MOFA, IS A POLISHED, IF SOMEWHAT DIRECT, DIPLOMAT. WE HAVE LONG CONSIDERED HIM A FRIEND AND HAVE FELT HIS BASIC SYMPATHIES WERE WITH THE WEST. INDEED, EVEN DURING THE DAYS OF DETERIORATING BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONS, WE OFTEN HAD IMPRESSION THAT AYALEW HAD THE COURAGE AND FINESSE IN HIS RELATIONS WITH DIRG TO KEEP THESE RELATIONS ON TRACK EVEN UP TO FINAL BREAK DESPITE GROWING DIRG OPPOSITION. SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL, AYALEW IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH DIRG NOW AND WILL BE EXPECTED VIGOROUSLY TO EXPLAIN ETHIOPIA TO AMERICAN AUDIENCES AND TO HELP REPAIR BILATERAL RELATIONS. FACT THAT HE IS VERY SENIOR AND WELL-REGARDED OFFICIAL STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT DIRG IS ATTACHING MORE THAN ORDINARY IMPORTANCE TO HIS NOMINATION TO WASHINGTON. SEEN FROM HERE, THEREFORE, EARLY AGREEMENT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN REASSURING ETHIOPIANS JUST AT THIS TIME THAT WE WELCOME THIS OBVIOUS GESTURE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ADDIS05565  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** FORMER MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PROPOSED AS AMBASSADOR TO U.S.  
**TAGS:** PDIP, ET, US, (ATO AYALEW MANDEFRO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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